

Request for Continuing Examination of Appl. No. 09/291,227  
Atty. Docket No. P-114  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003  
Customer No. 27,752

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process for enhancing immune response of a companion animal consisting of a dog or cat which is subjected to ordinary conditions, said process comprising the step of feeding said animal in need of such treatment a diet containing an effective immune enhancing amount of lutein, wherein the diet contains from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed by said animal.
3. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 in which said diet includes from about 2 to about 315 mg lutein per kg of diet.
4. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said companion animal is a dog.
5. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 4 in which said diet includes from about 5 to about 20 mg/day of lutein.
6. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said companion animal is a cat.
7. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 6 in which said diet includes from about 5 to about 10 mg/day of lutein.
8. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 in which said diet comprises about 20 to 40% crude protein, about 4 to 30% fat, and about 4 to 20% total dietary fiber.
9. (Currently amended) A process for increasing the lutein concentration in the circulating blood of a companion animal consisting of a dog or cat which is subjected to ordinary conditions, said process comprising the step of feeding said animal in need of such treatment a diet containing from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of said animal.

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10. (Currently amended) A process for increasing immunoglobulin concentration in a companion animal consisting of a dog or cat which is subjected to ordinary conditions, said process comprising the step of feeding said animal in need of such treatment a diet containing an effective immunoglobulin increasing amount of lutein, wherein the diet contains from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of the animal.

11. (Currently amended) A process for increasing lymphocyte cells in a companion animal consisting of a dog or cat which is subjected to ordinary conditions said process comprising the step of feeding said animal in need of such treatment a diet containing an effective lymphocyte increasing amount of lutein, wherein the diet contains from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of the animal.